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HARGUINDEGUY: 1978 WILL SEE APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

FY282010Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2003 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar--The interior minister stated here today that a president, who will not be a member of the military junta, will be appointed this year. Minister Albano Harguindeguy made this statement when opening the fifth meeting of governors today.

PURCHASE OF TANKERS, OIL STRIKES IN MENDOZA REPORTED

FY211735Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Mar 78 pp 18, 19 FY

[Text] A contract for the purchase of four 30,300-ton tankers was signed between Government Oil Deposits (YPF) and the Italcantieri S.P.A., an Italian state company.

It was reported yesterday that the new tankers will arrive by mid-year to reinforce the YPF fleet. The purchasing document was signed by YPF Vice President Carlos Maria Benaglia and by the general manager of the Italian company, Vincenzo Procopio.

The YPF press office also reported that drillings in Mendoza have been successful. The YPF communique added that the first oil well, located more than 35 km southeast of Mendoza's capital, has attained a production of 74.4 cubic meters per day from a depth of 3,250 meters.

It was also reported that the exploratory drillings in El Manzano, 75 km south of Malargue, uncovered an important oil deposit at a depth of 1,327 meters. The well's yielding an initial production of 144 cubic meters per day.

Therefore, YPF will step up work in the area south of Mendoza, where in mid-February the new El Divisadero III Pampa Palauco oil well entered operation. This well has similar characteristics to the Puesto Rojas II well also located close to Malargue, which produces 13,000 liters per hour at a depth of 2,300 meters.

It was also reported yesterday that oil had been found in the Cajon de los Caballos area.

KIDNAPED FRENCH NUNS REPORTED DEAD

FY281350Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1033 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Paris, 28 Mar--The two French nuns Alicia Domon and Renee Duquet, kidnaped in Buenos Aires on 8 and 10 December 1977, respectively, are dead, according to the group created to boycott the World Cup soccer matches to be held in Argentina, Swedish sources reported. According to the sources, the bodies of the two nuns were identified along with others found on the beaches near Bahia Blanca, 800 km south of Buenos Aires. Identification was made late in January by a high-ranking army officer who reported this fact to a women's group with which the nuns collaborated.

REASSERTS DECISION NOT TO ATTEND TALKS

PY282030Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1558 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 28 Mar--Bolivian military sources reasserted today that Bolivia will not attend either the preparatory talks or the military tripartite meeting scheduled for August in Lima for high-ranking Bolivian, Peruvian and Chilean officers.

The local morning daily EL DIARIO today quoted a source of the joint staff of the armed forces confirming the fact that Bolivia will not attend the above-mentioned meeting.

Chilean and Peruvian officers are meeting in Santiago, Chile, and according to reports of international news agencies, they are discussing the tripartite armed forces conference.

The reports from Santiago included a statement of Peruvian Gen (Ludwig Essenwanjer), who stated that high-ranking officers of the three countries would meet prior to the tripartite meeting of branch commanders.

According to the sources quoted by EL DIARIO, the chief of the joint staff of the Bolivian Armed Forces had already publicly stated that Bolivia would not attend the meeting. In fact, Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Gen Victor Gonzalez Fuentes stated in La Paz on Saturday that Bolivia would not send representatives to the coming military meeting in Lima.

General Gonzalez Fuentes indicated that there is no reason why Bolivia should attend this meeting. Two earlier meetings had been held in Santiago, Chile, and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

The high-ranking officer said on Saturday: "It is ridiculous that Chilean officials could think that Bolivia would attend the meeting in view of the situation prevailing in the country and the severance of relations, because there is really nothing to discuss."

The Bolivian Government severed relations with Chile on 17 March because it believed that its attempt at negotiating a sea outlet had failed. Bolivian military sources recalled that at the latest military meeting between Bolivia, Chile and Peru, the representatives of the other two countries did not discuss Bolivia's maritime problem, but promised to do so during the meeting in Lima.

General Gonzalez Fuentes stated on Saturday that after the severance of relations with Chile there could be no more meetings of this kind because the motives which gave rise to these meetings no longer existed.

LATIN INTERVIEWS BANZER ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY281843Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0215 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 27 Mar--Bolivian President Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez disclosed to LATIN today his decision to remain as head of the armed forces government. He has rejected the insistent requests that he resign so that the democratic process undertaken by the nation can be guaranteed. The chief of state categorically asserted that his government has in no way considered modifying the electoral calendar which will conclude on 9 July with general elections throughout the country.

Questioned whether he would allow his name to be proclaimed as an eventual presidential candidate in 1982, he answered: "If the country believes that I will be useful as an elevator operator, then I will become one."

He made it clear that he was resolved to respond to any petition from his people, regardless of the additional effort, from any post outside the presidency.

Regarding the current political process which the country is experiencing and the disintegration of the principal parties which cannot reach any type of agreement concerning permanent contracts [rentas] or alliances, the Bolivian president said: "I am sorry, as are the people with whom I frequently speak, about this situation." But he added: "It would be unjust to make the government responsible for the evident political disintegration in the country. It is the political parties which must achieve alliances or pacts and they have full freedom to do so."

Banzer thus answered repeated proclamations of the opposition which has accused the government of promoting party divisions beneficial to the candidacy of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun which has been termed as officialist and continuist. "Continuism is one thing and continuity is another. Upon transferring [power] to the person who is elected, I will return to my military functions, and in the appropriate post, with discipline. Therefore continuism does not exist," he explained.

But he hopes that the current process will continue because it is his belief that it has been shown to be the best way for overcoming the country's difficulties. This, he made clear, provides for continuity.

Asked about requests submitted by several political parties which believe that the period for the preelectoral process is very short, he emphatically asserted that the government has studied no type of modification for the electoral calendar. On the other hand, he indicated that in this sense the National Electoral Court, the highest organization which supervises and guarantees the process, has not submitted any type of official observations.

Belittling the demands that he resign, he told LATIN: "That suggestion clearly implies that those political circles do not believe in their chances for an election victory." "However, I would like to take this opportunity to guarantee complete government impartiality in the democratic process. The government will remain impartial as a precaution against accusations of fraud, even though some have already been made. That is the way some factions of Bolivian politics act.

The president spoke with LATIN concerning the government's relations with Jimmy Carter's administration. Some political circles mention the possibility of some changes resulting from the broadening of political life decreed in Bolivia. He answered: "I don't see why U.S. policy toward us should have to change. We have always had, and continue to have, good relations, and our decision to call elections for the country's institutionalization has nothing whatsoever to do with our foreign policy. Neither has it been determined by foreign pressures."

With regard to his personal efforts with the Carter administration, encouraging it to modify the severity of the threatened sale of strategic tin reserves, which would cause great damage to the Bolivian economy, he said that he has not yet received a definite answer from the U.S. leader. "We have received offers to stagger the tin sales so that the existence of the reserve will not act as a price regulator," he said.

Finally, Gen Hugo Banzer spoke of diplomatic relations with Chile, which were broken by his government on 17 March. He asserted that the break in relations with the neighboring country defines his government's stand at the end of an unfruitful negotiation. Three years ago General Banzer met with his Chilean colleague, Gen Augusto Pinochet, to renew diplomatic ties which had been broken off 13 years earlier, and began a dialog on the Bolivian sea outlet issue. Tonight, General Banzer said: "Our legitimate right to obtain our own sovereign sea outlet prompts us to make use of all possible chances to obtain this just national demand." The president reasserted that the new government elected by popular vote on 9 July will have to define its policy concerning a solution to the maritime problem and begin the necessary procedures.

IMPORTS STILL MOVING THROUGH CHILE; NO SHIFT IN ROUTES

FY281635Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Chamber of Commerce and National Customs officials have stated that the traffic of imported goods through Chilean ports is continuing normally and there are no orders to reroute Bolivian cargoes through other ports. No increase of handling facilities has been ordered for Bolivian cargoes which are to be unloaded in the Argentine port of Rosario or the Peruvian ports, since it is up to Bolivian importers to channel their goods through other ports, taking into account the availability of handling facilities.

The Bolivian customs administration has reported that in Antofagasta port there are 6,600 tons, in Arica 2,500 tons and in Mollendo, Peru, 3,700 tons of Bolivian goods. Regarding the transport from Antofagasta and Arica of wheat to Bolivia, it was reported that this transport is now improving mainly because more rolling stock has become available.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HOLDS MEETING, OUTLINES PLANS

FY281630Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Permanent Human Rights Commission has decided to hold a national meeting during the second half of April; it will be attended by political leaders and national officials and will analyze the democratization process of the country. Priest Julio Tumiri, who is one of the principal leaders of the commission, mentioned that it will also be necessary to explain its projects in the economic, political, social, cultural and health areas to future candidates. Tumiri also reported that during the last few weeks the Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Commission held a national meeting, reaching the following significant agreements:

[begin Tumiri recording] First, launch a campaign for the repeal of the state security law; secondly, conduct an exhaustive analysis of the military-campesino pact. We understand that in rural areas the free organization of the labor unions is being hindered. There are government pressures to bring peasant organizations to a standstill. Thirdly, we have thought it of primary importance to hold a meeting attended by political leaders. [end recording]

Other decisions refer to the repeal of the decree declaring mining centers military zones. Such a repeal would be a correct application of the ideology of democratization. According to this leader of the human rights assembly, all of these plans have the objective of obtaining a more just and free election.

MNRI, MIR APPEAL FOR UNITY AGAINST BANZER

PY271833Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Open letter from National Revolutionary Movement of the Left--MNRI--and Movement of the Revolutionary Left--MIR: "Continuity... 'At Any Cost'"]

[Text] With the break in relations with Chile announced last Friday, Banzer is completing a series of enormous and premeditated deceptions of the nation which began with the embrace at Charana in February 1975. Today, it is absolutely clear that both equally surprising events never had anything to do with the policy of a sea outlet so longed for by the whole nation. They were, and are, simple instruments which Banzer used for his internal political needs. The country, its interests and its historic claims have been put to the exclusive use of a minority.

The evidence is even more serious if we consider that the bold statement made by General Banzer that he "assumes full personal responsibility" for the unsuccessful plan does not improve the greatly disadvantageous position in which Bolivia has been placed in international consensus because the effectiveness of breaking off relations lost its value in Bolivian hands, thereby diminishing the force and credibility it had in the past. To this we should add that Banzer's total acceptance of the Chilean proposal in the note dated 19 December 1975 included the demand for territorial exchange and allowed Chile to include as part of the negotiations its hopes for additional Bolivian lands.

No sensational stand which the present regime could now assume will erase the conviction that the resumption of relations with Chile, as well as the recent break, were done without the country's knowledge and in a completely unilateral and rash manner. Throughout the subsequent situations arising from those decisions, the Bolivian people and their institutions, including the armed forces and official candidate Juan Pereda Asbun himself, in disagreement with his own sponsor, were taken by surprise by these accomplished facts.

But if the Bolivian people had nothing to do with the Charana episode, it is also true that this was inspired and encouraged by foreign interests which at the time were in agreement with the interests of Banzer's domestic policies and were trying to rescue the Pinochet regime from its international isolation, and simultaneously harass the Peruvian Government of Velasco Alvarado.

The contrast between the historic interests of the Bolivian people and the interests of the Banzer regime were made even more obvious when he yielded to the Chilean proposal in a public statement by saying: "Do you really believe that Chile is just going to return to us part of the territory it conquered during the war? Hardly. The reality is that victory does give rights." With this statement he endorsed the conquerors' rights, a theory conscientiously and unequivocally rejected by the Government of Peru which was irresponsibly excluded from an essential trilateral negotiation.

The historic demands of the Bolivian people and their undeniable right to the sea have been unscrupulously used by the regime to guarantee its political survival. Behind the slogan "the sea at any cost" [mar a como de lugar], there was hidden the unpopular imposition of continuity at any cost. That was the purpose of the last resumption of relations and that is the purpose of this spectacular break which hopes to convert an international failure into a domestic political triumph.

The MNRI and the MIR proclaim before the Bolivian people that the break in relations with Chile, belated and sensational, could be followed by a rash rejection of the 1904 treaty again without the popular consensus which demands responsibility in the management of the nation's highest interests, and with the sole objective of soothing the weak and disreputable character of the Banzer government in order to insure either the continuity of the electoral process or its abandonment, including the official candidate, while seeking the strengthening of the existing personal regime. The second alternative is by far the most attractive for Banzerism and uses as its pretext a national unity which needed to confront threats to the nation. So while the people hope to commemorate this 23 March with the exaltation of their undeniable rights, Banzer seeks another scheme to take advantage of democracy to guarantee him absolute power over the country and over Bolivians.

Banzer does not favor national unity to defend the country but to prolong his dictatorship. Banzer has demobilized, disunited and weakened the Bolivian people by using our sea restoration for his personal objectives. Banzer is no longer a military chief who represents the nation's armed forces which serve the people and the nation's historical goals because he persists in using these to favor minority interests and circumstances which divide, separate and disintegrate the nation.

Only the effective presence of the people in government leadership can guarantee a solid, dynamic, and durable national unity which can mobilize all the country's human and material potential. Only the Bolivian people, led by their rightful labor, political and military leaders which govern for them, with them, and by them, will be able to confront the heritage left by the "Charana embrace" and the negative results of a regime which has not hesitated to play with the nation's destiny to gain its personal goals.

The MNRI and the MIR, which are fully identified with the Bolivian people, who have shown that they have their own ways to struggle for their rights and victories, appeal to all city, country and mine workers, all of today's conscientious democratic movements to be alert to the regime's maneuvers and to lend themselves to a unity of thought and action of civic opposition with the same force with which it rejected the territorial exchange accepted by Banzer and with the same unselfishness with which it took part in the hunger strike which revived the popular, democratic and revolutionary struggle.

La Paz, 21 March 1978; For the national leadership of the MNRI, Abil Ayoroa Argandona, Luis Pelaez Rioja; For the national leadership of the MIR, Antonio Aranibar Quiroga, Jaime Paz Zamora

YPFB OFFICIAL SAYS LACK OF FUNDS LIMITS OIL EXPLORATION

PY241958Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Mar 78 p 12 PY

[Excerpt] Lack of economic resources was given yesterday as the main cause for Bolivian Government Oil Deposits' [YPFB] failure to complete its exploration plans and the consequent increase of crude oil production. Rolando Prada, YPFB manager, held a press conference yesterday in which he explained YPFB's current situation and its plans for 1978 and 1979.

With the aid of graphs, Prada showed convincingly that the 5-year 1973-78 plan went uncompleted "not because of bad administration but because of the lack of resources." He indicated that between 1973 and 1978 there had been a decrease in the production of crude oil, from 47,200 barrels daily in 1973 to 34,600 in 1977, even though the proven gas reserves had increased to 3,973,000,000 cubic feet.

Prada said that the following conclusions are apparent: "that investment in exploration has been lower than that stipulated in the 5-year plan, especially during 1977; this fact means that there have been fewer discoveries of hydrocarbons and low production."

There was moderate success in the discovery of liquids but these resources are limited. On the other hand the discovery of gas was a "great success" and constitutes a very important energy asset for the country's future. Nevertheless, Prada indicated that although the gas reserves place Bolivia in second place after Venezuela, which possesses the greatest gas wealth, this asset is not yet exploitable on a large scale due to the lack of markets. He added that it has been demonstrated that the country "will always be able to count on energy resources and we will not be afraid of running out of them." Crude oil reserves are estimated at \$900 million.

ENDORSEMENT GIVEN TO BRAZIL'S AMAZON PACT CONCEPT

FY281907Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 28 Mar--It was officially confirmed here today that Bolivia is in favor of the Brazilian project of Amazon integration. The official report says that Bolivia, because of its geographical position and historical calling, is a land of contacts and therefore offers its cooperation in the project of Amazon integration in a vast area of South America. Delegates from Amazon Basin countries are now meeting in Brasilia.

BRIEFS

CHIEF OF STAFF TO BRAZIL--La Paz--A high Bolivian military mission, headed by Gen Hernan Terrazas, army chief of staff, went to Brazil today to visit Brazilian arms factories. The mission has been especially invited by the Brazilian Defense Ministry and will stay in the neighboring country for a week. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 21 Mar 78 FY]

SILVER EXPORTS--La Paz, 21 Mar--It was reported here today that Bolivia will increase its silver export income by \$8 million annually, beginning in 1978. The Mining Corporation of Bolivia has put into operation a new smelting plant for the recovery of minerals with low-grade silver in the district of Quechisla, some 800 km south of La Paz. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1713 GMT 21 Mar 78 FY]

FRG AID-- The FRG has granted a credit for DML2 million to the Bolivian Government to be used exclusively on irrigation works. The National Service for Community Development, therefore, will soon start work on 20 hydraulic projects for large-scale irrigation systems in the altiplano region and in the valley area which will enable the irrigation of 13,000 hectares. Five FRG experts, who are already in La Paz, will be in charge of the preliminary studies. The 20 irrigation projects will benefit about 200 families. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Mar 78 p 4 FY]

USSR EXPERTS--Representatives of the USSR firm Mashinostroyexport are checking the progress of the La Palca tin volatilization plant in Potosi. The Soviet delegation is headed by Ambassador to Bolivia Boris Kazantsev. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Mar 78 FY]

DEMONSTRATIONS ANTICIPATE CARTER'S VISIT

Possibility of Joint Communiqué

FM290349Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 7 FY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The governments of Brazil and of the United States will sign a joint declaration on Thursday in which they will outline a number of points of agreement in the positions maintained by the two countries and will emphasize the positive spirit reflected by Carter's visit. Among the common points which can be included in the declaration are the defense of Western, Christian civilization; the joint efforts toward achieving peace; the solution of conflicts through agreements; and guaranteeing a harmonious dialog between rich and poor countries.

Issuance of a joint communiqué is dependent upon the positive nature of Carter's visit. The visit will be considered positive if the U.S. President, as the Brazilian Government expects, does not assume an "inconvenient" attitude on the various occasions he will have to speak. These occasions include public appearances such as the speeches to be made at the dinner to be given at Alvarada Palace, at the National Congress, at the Federal Supreme Court and at the press conference. Any specific reference to human rights practices in Brazil, to the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement and to the political regime in force in the country would be considered "inconvenient."

There will be no difficulties in approving a high-level joint communiqué if Carter is pragmatic both on these public appearances and during the secret contacts he will maintain with both President Geisel and Gen Joao Baptista de Figueriredo. Yet, if Carter does not adopt this attitude, the two countries would choose to approve a less important document, such as a press communiqué which would simply summarize the talks and negotiations held and which would thus have no political significance.

As is common practice, no communiqué is now being negotiated. Each government has minutes of the major issues it wants to include in the communiqué, which will only be officially discussed after the initiation of the visit. As the talks go on, additions and deletions will be made until a mutually agreeable version is approved.

The signing of a cooperation agreement during this visit has been discarded. However, this does not mean that the Carter visit could not be instrumental in creating the conditions leading to the signing of an agreement of this kind in the future. The joint communiqué could even mention the possibility of such a future agreement.

Students Protest Visit

PA290447Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0428 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Mar (AFP)--Brasilia University students today approved a "motion of repudiation" against tomorrow's visit to Brazil by U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Gathered at the university campus to protest the death of two students in Brazil in 1968 and 1973, the Brasilia students described the U.S. President as "the greatest representative of the multinational concerns" and "the lamb (innocent defender) of human rights." The student demonstration ended in an orderly fashion. The protest demonstrations were held within the university campus.

In other Brazilian cities student demonstrations were held to protest the deaths of two students in 1968 and 1973. The demonstrations were orderly and did not go beyond the university campuses. The Brazilian police which took measures to prevent street rioting allowed the students to demonstrate within the university campuses.

MDB Deputies' Comments

PY280237Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Excerpts] Several opposition deputies have expressed their views on the visit U.S. President Jimmy Carter will make to Brazil beginning tomorrow.

Deputy Francisco Libardone [Santa Catarina State] considers the U.S. President as a symbol of faith and hope for those nations which have not yet had access to the benefits of civilization and freedom.

Drawing a comparison between Carter's visit and that which Eisenhower made to Brazil in 1960, Deputy Jarbas Vasconcelos [Pernambuco State] said that no one could repeat now what (Alfonso Arinos) [not further identified] said then on greeting the visitor, that is, that Brazil was one of the true democracies existing in America.

Deputy Alvaro Valle [Rio de Janeiro State] said that the U.S. President must try to become aware of the real situation existing in Brazil.

Mixup on Meeting

PY281652Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The Brazilian and the U.S. governments have different opinions as to the character--formal or informal--of President Jimmy Carter's meeting with Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo this coming Wednesday. This difference arose from the incorrect interpretation of the term "to see," which had been used in communications between the White House and the Planalto Palace.

The U.S. Embassy revealed yesterday that the contact with Planalto Palace was made last Wednesday afternoon in the following terms: "The U.S. Government is asking whether it would be possible for President Carter to have the opportunity to see Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo during his visit to Brasilia."

According to U.S. Embassy spokesman John de Witt, the term "to see" was construed by the embassy to mean "an informal meeting, possibly before, during or after the dinner," different for instance from the meeting to be held between Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Itamaraty, however, accused the head of the U.S. party responsible for press affairs, Griff Ellison, of "being wrong" in denying that the White House had asked for a formal meeting between President Carter and General Figueiredo.

Itamaraty then added: "What has happened is that the matter has already been fully publicized," that is, that Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira has contacted President Geisel and General Figueiredo and afterwards announced that a formal meeting would be held between President Carter and General Figueiredo, minister-chief of the National Intelligence Service.

The ceremonial office of Planalto Palace, however, continued to consider the meeting an informal one and has only extended to General Figueiredo an invitation to attend the dinner.

Meeting Arrangements Clarified

PY290110Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 9 PY

[Text] Brasilia--President Jimmy Carter will not meet Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo after the "working dinner" at Alvorada Palace but during a cocktail party to be held in the library of President Geisel's official residence. Planalto Palace advisers do not term the Carter-Figueiredo meeting either "formal" or "informal," but instead note that "the important thing is that they are going to meet."

Protocol officials of the two countries came to the conclusion that the most appropriate time for the meeting would be during the cocktail party and not after the "working dinner"--as was first scheduled--"so as not to surround the meeting with the connotation of an audience." The meeting could not possibly be held during the dinner because the seating is by order of precedence and General Figueiredo will be seated "far away from the two presidents."

Through its spokesman Felipe Lampreia, Itamaraty reported yesterday that President Carter "will see General Figueiredo either before or after the dinner to be held at Alvorada Palace on 29 March." Lampreia declined, however, to define the nature of the meeting, noting that "it is not proper to define the nature of a meeting between the U.S. President and a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Brazil."

Lampreia declined to comment on the manner in which Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira announced the meeting last week. Despite the insistence of newsmen, he refused to consider the meeting either as "formal" or "informal." After being told that a formal conversation would be included in the agenda, that a time was set for it and that it would be private, Lampreia asked: "What does a formal conversation mean to you?"

He added: "What significance can protocol have compared with the significance of the meeting itself?" Then he said that, in his opinion, a meeting between the U.S. President and the future Brazilian president "should be unquestionably significant at any time and under any conditions." He concluded by stating that "protocol does not count; the meeting itself is what counts."

U.S. MILITARY AID REJECTION SEEN AS NATURAL STEP

PY281358Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] The army used to buy weapons from the United States, but during the administrations of Gen Orlando Geisel and Gen Silvio Frota as army ministers, the army decided to develop its own technology. Therefore, during these administrations, a technology transfer clause was included in all purchase contracts signed. Then came the government's import reduction policy as well as a diversification of countries from which weapons were imported: Cobra missiles were bought from the FRG and prototypes built in Brazil; German-French Roland missiles were bought; and Otto Malara parachute components, as well as other materials, were imported from Italy.

Despite the political connotation given to the denunciation of the 1952 military agreement with the United States, it was only a natural consequence of the Brazilian strategy for the purchase of military material and the coming of age of a Brazilian military doctrine.

The association of the War Material Industry (IMBEL) with foreign companies--most likely with the FRG Kraus Maffei firm and FN [Fabrique Nationale], the Belgian firm--will be another natural consequence of the development of a Brazilian military technology, using less costly labor, and relying on the potential of the Latin American market.

UEKI EXPLAINS OIL SITUATION IN SANTOS BASIN

PY281435Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki said, in a lecture given in Sao Paulo yesterday, that President Carter's visit to Brazil will have no bearing on the implementation of the Brazilian-German nuclear agreement. The mines and energy minister gave the following explanation on the question of oil in the Santos Basin: [begin Ueki recording] "I would like to seize this opportunity to explain a little better the question of existence of oil in the Santos Basin. Brazil is undertaking a rather intensive search for oil deposits and the nation's president has authorized the signing of risk contracts for that purpose, and so the British Petroleum Company [BP] is working under one of these risk contracts in the Santos Basin. There have been contradictory reports about the results of that company's work, reports which did not originate from the Mines and Energy Ministry or from PETROBRAS. For instance, this past January when BP was drilling at a depth of 2,000 to 2,500 meters, a discovery of oil in the Santos Basin was given wide publicity. This announcement, I repeat, was not made by either the Mines and Energy Ministry or PETROBRAS. Later in March, when the drilling reached an oil-bearing formation, PETROBRAS did announce the discovery of oil, but observed that productivity of yield tests had not been made, to avoid exaggerated speculation on the discovery. Early in March, or rather in the second week of March, we admitted that oil had been found in the Santos Basin, but said we did not know whether it had any real commercial value. We said that only after productivity tests were completed, would the government or PETROBRAS make the official announcement of the test results. Unfortunately, productivity tests showed that the finding had no substantial commercial value and that it could not be exploited economically. PETROBRAS released information regarding the existence of problems in the well and that new tools were being tested to see if they should continue drilling at the same site or should move into another site in the same area." [end recording].

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO CENTRAL AMERICA--Sao Paulo--Ford Motor Company of Brazil will export F-600 and F-700 diesel trucks to Central American and the Caribbean countries; 500 units are to be delivered by December 1978 and 1,000 units in 1979. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Mar 78 p 17 PY]

EMBRAER SALES--Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER) so far has found no market for the 350 planes which are ready for sale. The government's policy of curtailing credit may be responsible for this suspension of sales both domestically and abroad. Due to the lack of investment funds, the Air Force Ministry also decided recently to suspend manufacture of the AX single-seater tactical-support jet airplane, and the CX medium-sized transport plane for 45 soldiers or 50 passengers. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 78 p 13 PY]

ADMIRAL DOWNPLAYS CHANCE OF WAR WITH PERU, BOLIVIA

PY290233Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2018 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Antofagasta, Chile, 28 Mar--Chilean Vice Adm Carlos Le May noted here today that the possibility of Chile's going to war against Peru and Bolivia "is very remote."

Admiral Le May, who is the Chilean Navy chief of staff, is directing the antisubmarine maneuvers which the navy is carrying out in this area located 1,400 km from Santiago.

After noting that relations with Peru "are improving day by day," the high-ranking navy officer stated that "we have some differences with Bolivia but I do not believe there will be a war." He added: "I believe that the spirit of Charana will be vindicated in the long run. I believe the present situation will be overcome."

BEAGLE CHANNEL TALKS WITH ARGENTINE DELEGATION BEGIN

PY261857Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The foreign affairs minister presided over the latest meeting of the Chilean delegation to the first joint commission on boundaries with Argentina. During the talks they analyzed the 14 agenda items to be discussed with the Argentine delegation, which arrived in our country last night. The head of the Chilean delegation, Gen Luis Joaquin Ramirez, reaffirmed that 6 April still remains the deadline for the joint commission's task. The reaffirmation of this date by General Ramirez was a rebuttal of reports from abroad that the talks were deadlocked.

The meetings with the Argentine delegation will begin today at 0900 at the Argentine Chancery.

First Day Talks Conclude

PY290228Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2218 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 28 Mar--The Argentine and Chilean delegations which make up the first Beagle Channel commission, whose purpose is to discuss the dispute between the two countries in the southern region, held the first of three meetings today. During this meeting, the commission discussed the agenda of the meeting. The head of the Argentine delegation, Maj Gen Pablo Apella, said that "there will be progress in the meetings as long as there is dialog." General Apella made this statement at the end of the meeting which is being held at the Argentine Embassy in Santiago.

LETELIER WITNESS REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED

PY290035Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2204 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 28 Mar--Judicial sources have reported here that army Capt Armando Fernandez Larios, who was allegedly involved in the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, was questioned today by the military court.

The same sources added that another key witness, the American Michael Townley, will be questioned within the next few hours. Authorities, however, are observing complete secrecy throughout the entire process.

Both of these persons are wanted by U.S. courts in connection with the investigation of the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, which occurred in Washington 2 years ago.

This report could not be confirmed, however, because of the secrecy surrounding the proceedings being carried out by the military court on the irregularities in issuing official Chilean passports.

In a statement to journalists, Townley's lawyer, Manuel Acuna Kairath, stated that his client had been staying at his home in Santiago all along. He added that a court order must be issued before he will testify and that until noon today he had not received this court order.

MARXIST GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBING

PY271953Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1448 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--The little-known "Marxist Resistance Movement" has assumed the responsibility for an explosive device which left serious material damage but no victims at the home of the State Technical University rector, Eugenio Reyes Tastets, on Saturday.

Through telephone calls to various information media, the organization said that a communique informing about the attempt was to be found in a restaurant bathroom. Police patrols yesterday picked up the seven-page file signed by the "Marxist Resistance Movement," but its contents were not disclosed.

The device exploded around midnight on Saturday after having been placed at the rector's home, located near the city's downtown area.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE CHIEF CONCLUDES VISIT

PY280309Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2255 GMT 27 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Mar--Gen Robert Doherty Rogers, commander in chief of the South African Air Force, returned home today after attending the celebrations of the 48th anniversary of the Chilean Air Force [FACH]. The visitor was seen off at Pudahuel airport by Gen Gustavo Leigh, FACH commander in chief, and a company of the FACH specialty school rendered the honors.

"I am very impressed by the great cordiality I found in all Chileans," stated Rogers before taking the regular Braniff flight which took off at 1340 local time (1740 GMT).

Rogers, who spent a week in Chile, was accompanied by his wife.

EL ESPECTADOR: LATIN AMERICA 'LOST' PANAMA CANAL BATTLE

PA282254Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 26 Mar 78 p 2-A PA

[Article by Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa: "Latin America Loses a Battle"]

[Excerpts] Latin America has lost a battle: the Panama Canal battle. For our hemisphere it was a question of principle that sovereignty over the Canal Zone be returned to the nation on whose territory the canal was built and that an end be put to an era of U.S. military intervention in this part of the hemisphere.

Has the possibility of intervention ended? Will the Panama Canal be free from all threats of this nature in the future? Can it be said that the shameful treaty of 18 November 1903, hastily drafted and signed by a French adventurer, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, and U.S. Secretary of State John Hay, has been eliminated in all its parts? Unfortunately, the answer to those questions is a resounding no. The 7 September 1977 treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal, approved with amendments which disfigure the tenor of the agreement of that date signed by the President of the United States and the Panamanian chief of government, is for all practical purposes a return to the 1903 treaty.

The low-key reception given to the treaty's approval both in Washington and in Panama clearly shows this. No congratulatory speeches have been made in either of the two capitals, nor have the streets of Panama been lit to celebrate the U.S. Senate's approval of the first of the two treaties signed in a happy fiesta of embraces and photographs before the presidents of the American states last 7 September at the OAS. The truth is that between the signing of the neutrality treaty on that day and its emergence from the senatorial process, a step was taken from nonintervention toward the opposite principle.

The treaty on the neutrality of the Panama Canal was finally passed by one vote, 68 to 32. Concessions were made so that President Carter would be saved from a fiasco. And these leave open possibilities for intervention. There should be no mistake, then. The important thing is that unilateral action, established in 1846 with New Granada and in 1903 with Panama, has been retained.

With this perpetual treaty a situation which was to be eliminated has been established for all time. Now it is up to Panama to decide. And if the treaties are ratified, Latin America has lost the battle against intervention.

OFFICIAL SAYS NO ELECTION POSTPONEMENT CONTEMPLATED

PA281959Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The military government has rejected the possibility of a postponement of the presidential and regional elections scheduled for 16 July. The alleged postponement was reported by the daily EL TELEGRAFO, of Guayaquil, which quoted well-informed political circles. According to the newspaper report, the elections would take place in October and they would involve only one round of elections and not two as the law stipulates.

In denying this, the government spokesman, Rear Adm Victor Garces, said that the elections and parties laws were prepared with the agreement of the armed forces, which have established reasonable deadlines corresponding to the plan of return to a de jure state. However, the government official admitted that there is the possibility of a change to the second temporary provision of the political parties law issued 1 month ago. In line with this provision the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is to present a bill to the government for issuance that will include the regulations governing the political parties law. These regulations, apparently, have not been drafted by the tribunal, which as the country has seen, has dissolved itself. However, as the government official sees it, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal continues in effect since the resignations of its members have not been accepted and some of the resignations have been withdrawn.

This idea on the status of the tribunal was expressed by Rear Admiral Garces during a meeting with journalists. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Secretary General, according to the second provision of the political parties law, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal should establish elections regulations within a deadline that expires tomorrow. Apparently there is a de facto situation as a result of the absence of the members of the electoral organization.

[Answer] First of all, as the resignations of the members of the electoral tribunal have not been accepted yet, they are still tacitly functioning as members of the electoral tribunal. So the tribunal has the obligation to comply with the law. In this regard I must inform you that the Supreme Council of Government has decided to send a note today to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal asking for the documents necessary for the issuance of the regulations.

[Question] However, the members of the tribunal have not complied with this provision. Is this insubordination?

[Answer] You are the one who has used that word. We could not consider using it. The members of the tribunal have continued cooperating. They have convened the elections and a large percentage of the tribunal members have withdrawn their resignations. So we cannot say that the tribunal is without a head.

[Question] I think that there is a de facto situation, Mr Secretary General. There is a vacuum in the functions of the tribunal.

[Answer] That is correct, but [words indistinct]. If this does not happen, then the government will adopt the most suitable measures in order to solve all pending problems.

[Question] Who are the members who have withdrawn their resignations?

[Answer] Unfortunately I do not have the list of names with me. The justice minister has it. I could not give you any names. But there are several. Because there is not much time, the government will take immediate steps in order to carry out the programs of the juridical restructuring plan.

[Question] Apparently, Mr Secretary General, the rules have been violated since no regulations have been issued so far.

[Answer] If the regulations bill is not presented before tomorrow, because this is a temporary provision, specifically the second temporary provision, in view of the circumstances this provision could be changed.

[Question] Speaking of changes, a morning newspaper from a port city has reported that the elections law would be changed to postpone the elections and to suspend the second round of elections.

[Answer] There is nothing to that story. This is simply something we could call an exaggeration by some sector. I can categorically state that the text of the elections and parties laws will not be modified at all because they are documents issued with the unanimous approval of the armed forces and because they are in line with the timetable of the elections programs established by the [words indistinct] directed at constitutional order.

[Question] Are we not in a race against the clock?

[Answer] No. This has been carefully considered and we have adopted prudent deadlines. We think that the political parties can carry out their goals and objectives within these deadlines.

[Question] What is the point of view of the military regime at the beginning [words indistinct] of the process of democratic return?

[Answer] Simply that the people must actively participate and unite their efforts so that the government, the citizens, the armed forces and the political sectors may arrive at the creation of a great national front for democracy in the country.

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT

PY282006Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1935 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 Mar--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes arrived here today for a 2-day visit to Peru.

The Argentine foreign minister arrived at the head of an official delegation aboard an Argentine Air Force plane. At the Jorge Chavez International Airport he was received by his Peruvian counterpart, Jose de la Puente Radbill.

PCP CALLS FOR PACT AMONG LEFTIST GROUPS

PA281322Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 23 Mar 78 p 2 PA

[Text] Yesterday, the Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] stressed the need for a pact among leftist organizations. It said that the pact must include "the pledge to unify and coordinate efforts for the anti-imperialist and antioligarchic struggle during the electoral process and to fight for the enactment of a progressive democratic and popular constitution."

A PCP communique urged leftist political organizations and movements to promote a full discussion and to create a strong movement which will be truly popular and progressive.

BRIEFS

ELECTORAL PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED--The National Electoral Court has designated the letters of the alphabet to identify the political parties which will participate in the coming elections. According to the secretary general of the Electoral Court, the letters are: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, and M. These letters have been selected to avoid confusion at election time. The allocation of letters to the political parties will be made in a public ceremony, and immediately thereafter the parties will begin campaigning using the letters allotted to them. [Text] [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 78 PY]

ARMY COMMANDER ALVAREZ OUTLINES ROLE OF MILITARY

FY281422Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0423 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Mar--The commander in chief of the Uruguayan Army, Lt Gen Gregorio Alvarez, stated today that a career military officer is aware that a statesman is better prepared to handle political affairs, and emphasized that the officers need statesmen to effectively guide them in the direction and scope of their actions.

In a speech made during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Superior Military Studies (IMES), General Alvarez made it clear that the effectiveness of these guidelines, however, must be seen in practice and not be restricted to mere statements.

General Alvarez recalled that former President Juan Maria Bordaberry had stated in 1974 (when he was still president of the country) that the armed forces were like the rocks in the sea; they had not grown. What had happened was that political actions, like the tide, had ebbed in terms of quality and military actions had, therefore, become more obvious.

The officer added that a statesman should not feel ashamed of the mistakes made by the army but of his own inability to provide the armed forces with a clear idea of its mission.

In establishing the role of the army within the current civilian-military process of national reconstruction, which the armed forces have been encouraging since 1973, General Alvarez stated that "our army, as a basic institution, must have its own conscience and its own capability of understanding and choice in matters pertaining to national security and defense." He warned that "otherwise it runs the risk of becoming an instrument of tyranny and corruption."

Alvarez, who has been commander in chief of the army since the beginning of February, emphasized that the army must remain apolitical because it is involved with no groups or classes, and is indifferent to superficial and transient matters."

BRIEFS

PESO DEVALUED--The Central Bank devalued the peso today by 1.44 percent. The new rates, which are effective beginning today, 27 March, are 5.48 to the U.S. dollar for purchasing and 5.49 for selling, as compared to 5.40 for exports and 5.41 for imports, which were effective last week. This is the first official adjustment in March and the fourth in 1978. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY]

MEAT EXPORTS--Montevideo, 28 Mar--Uruguay exported 14,639 tons of meat during January-February 1978 for \$12,480,000, at an average price of \$857 per ton, according to a report from the National Meat Institute. The main purchasers were: Egypt, 3,822,442 kg; Brazil, 2,638,786 kg; FRG, 1,500,992 kg; Italy, 1,448,423 kg; and Greece, 925,373 kg. Ghana, Israel, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Japan, Switzerland and the United States bought smaller quantities. [Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 2254 GMT 28 Mar 78 FY]

SPEECHES BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT DURING CARTER VISIT

Welcomes Carter at Airport

PA281842Y Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 1719 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez welcoming President Carter at Simon Bolivar Airport in Maiquetia--live]

[Text] Mr President Jimmy Carter, Mrs Rosalynn Carter:

We Venezuelans receive your visit with profound pleasure. President Carter and his wife have stood out as two genuine standard bearers of the cause of universal democracy, which makes it especially satisfying for Venezuela that our fatherland should be the first one you visit in Latin America, Mr President.

You have come to Latin America at a time in which all our people have their eyes and ears upon the U S. Congress. The Senate is discussing the future of hemispheric relations between South America and North America. Every word said there on the ratification of the new Panama Canal treaties has deep repercussions in all countries of Latin America. When we, the government leaders of Latin America, were in Washington in the headquarters of the Organization of American States, all of our people, without distinction as to race, belief or origin of their governments, supported the documents signed by you and the Panamanian chief of government, Gen Omar Torrijos. Not since the entrance into World War II by the United States had the people of Latin America expressed such unanimous and enthusiastic support as that which they gave these treaties signed by you, the chiefs of government of the United States and Panama.

This means that that day, 7 September 1977, is marked in the history of the hemisphere as the date in which resentments were erased and a historic era ended. [They] were erased as they had been earlier between the United States and England or between Latin America and Spain. Such is the immense meaning of those treaties in the context of the friendship and fraternity between our peoples.

We have confidence in the American spirit and the democratic justice of the U.S. Senate. Republicans and Democrats represent a great people who identify their existence with the struggle for freedom, the dignity of peoples and their sovereign rights which they were the first to champion when they proclaimed their independence in 1776.

I say all this, Mr President, interpreting the feelings of the Latin American people with full optimism but without being able to hide the sincere concern we throughout Latin America feel toward any congressional action which may detour the noble route of this gallant initiative, the emblem of the U.S. bicentennial, which we Latin Americans joyously celebrated just as we want to celebrate with the same fraternal joy the ratification of the new treaties, which will be the initiation of a new era of friendship and cooperation between Latin America and the United States. Such is the symbolic meaning of the new Panama Canal treaties. Not only will this be a ratification of a new, just and honorable treaty of sovereignty, but also a ratification of the eternal friendship between the United States and Latin America.

Mr President, this trip has another extraordinary significance: It is the ratification of your policy of attending to the problems of the Third World. You are visiting us, the countries of Latin America--Venezuela and Brazil--a visit which we receive not as a privilege but as an expression of your concern for Latin American problems. You will later continue on to Africa, Nigeria and Liberia, to combine in this way your purpose and concern, and ratify in this way that the Third World will have in you a receptive and sincere listener ready to undertake a dialog which will open new prospects for international justice.

In these brief words of welcome I cannot abstain from mentioning with joyful solidarity that your name has acquired such high regard in our Latin America and the world because you have given highly ethical content to your government's policies. Venezuelans and Latin Americans felt happiness and deep satisfaction when the world was told by the President of one of the most powerful nations on earth that human rights acquired priority in your administration. These ethical values, incorporated at a priority level into the policy of your great country, have opened up humanistic prospects to world politics and have strengthened the struggles which in Latin America and the world are waged by people to obtain well-being with dignity.

President Carter, Mrs Carter, in the name of Venezuela, of the government, of my wife and in my own name, I bid you the most cordial welcome. I hope that in this land of Simon Bolivar you will feel as if you were in your own country.

Remarks at Dinner for Carter

PA290440Y Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at dinner in honor of President Jimmy Carter--place not given; live]

[Text] We interpret your presence in Venezuela, on Latin American soil, as a sincere expression of the U.S. Government's interest in and willingness to establish an identification of concepts and understandings between Latin America and your country.

Alexis de Tocqueville, that 19th century French traveler who arrived in the United States in search of new political perspectives, observing the U.S. democratic society and its institutions, wrote a book that is considered among the classics of political science. I refer to the book Democracy in America. I bring to mind this [word indistinct] and intelligent Frenchman in order to quote one of his sayings: Our enemies never tell us the truth and our friends very seldom do.

This thought of the great writer accurately defines what we would like to achieve in our dialog and talks with the United States. We are included among the friends who speak frankly and not among those who seldom tell the truth. We have proposed to take our hemispheric relations away from mere formalities, from the good and cordial diplomatic relations with the stereotyped official language which is alien to the realities of our peoples and the desires and aspirations to find solutions to the problems we face. Besides being cordial and friendly, our dialog should be sincere, truthful and frank.

In a little less than 1 year, this is the third time that you and I, President Carter, have met to discuss subjects of great importance, which have not been limited to matters of exclusive bilateral interest. Latin America, the Third World, the North-South dialog, the Panama Canal treaties, the Caribbean, the global problems which affect world peace, among other subjects that we have discussed, reflect a broad and positive attitude toward constructive understanding.

You are frank when you mention the serious problems being faced by the United States, a great world power with countless commitments and serious responsibilities. In the face of those problems, we have a spirit of understanding, the same spirit that we desire for ourselves when you hear the proposals that we make, some in the name of our country and Latin America and others in the name of we who make up the Third World. We live at a time when indifference and isolationism of other eras are impossible because the decisions of some affect others.

At the end of your first year in office, we have noted your willingness to establish a climate that will help in the achievement of lasting and effective rapprochements. In the Latin American area, the signing of the American Convention on Human Rights and the first protocol of the Tlatelolco Treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms are concrete and affirmative actions, just as at the level of relations with the Third World one can see your concern over the North-South dialog and your hemispheric and global (?action) regarding a policy in defense of human rights and, of course, the high priority given to the negotiation of the Panama Canal treaties to which I referred upon bidding you welcome at Simon Bolivar Airport.

The initial impact of your foreign policy toward Latin America and the Third World has also been important. Nevertheless, it is just to recognize that in such a short time one could not expect solutions to many problems, particularly those of an economic nature. Despite the good will, practical results--which are necessary and cannot be postponed--have not been achieved.

Venezuela's foreign policy seeks three fundamental objectives which are interrelated. [words indistinct] The solidarity of our nation with the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order which will incorporate the Third World countries, in a just and permanent manner, into the decisionmaking process of an interdependent world. Latin American integration is closely linked to this vital objective. Second, our presence and our action within OPEC as a promoter of (?awareness) concerning the need to adopt [word indistinct] decisions to rationalize the use of a limited vital resource which mankind needs for a long future. In this way, petroleum became an instrument of negotiation to back the positions we, the developing countries, have been maintaining before the industrialized nations to achieve trade terms which will equally value the manufactured products and the raw materials that we produce. [Words indistinct] belief that it is not possible to postpone solutions to problems that threaten man's dignity and cause the suffering of millions of human beings who are affected by hunger, malnutrition, ignorance and poverty. The third objective of our foreign policy is definitely and firmly committed to the promotion and defense of democracy and human rights. In short, we join the universal desire for world peace.

Venezuelan democracy is currently one of the most open and best adapted in the world to coexistence and authentic universal brotherhood. It has not been an easy conquest; it has been the product of the people's struggle throughout many decades.

Latin American countries are essentially democratic. Only international injustice which brings about social differences has led us to conflicts without solution. For this reason we cannot think of democracy in isolation from human rights. When we talk about establishing a new international economic order, we are not voicing a political slogan which is hostile and antagonistic toward industrialized countries. We are speaking with the conviction and analytical knowledge that there is no alternative for mankind but a profound and coherent rectification of the present system of injustices on which the current order, obsolete and unstable, is based and whose collapse is already showing dramatic consequences. We firmly believe that only in this manner can we solve modern society's dilemmas so that we can give democracy the vitality it needs in the Western Hemisphere, of which we are part because of ideological, geographic and economic reasons.

The present order, if this term can still be used, condemns all nations--industrialized and Third World. For the latter, the crisis would not be too painful because it would not be an entirely new experience. You have a clear idea of these threats and as a man of feeling and deep convictions you understand why we are talking in these terms. At every conference where the most qualified statesmen, experts and the most outstanding scientists concur, the conclusion is always obvious. The world economy cannot emerge from its crisis and much less maintain a sustained development if Third World countries do not form part of that development. It is absurd to consider the unilateral growth of industrialized countries at the expense of hardships and backwardness for three-fourths of mankind. At the United Nations, at UNCTAD, at the [words indistinct] conference and regional organizations there has been a significant consensus but, between the time of learning the facts and acting on them, the political decision is not made, which results in an endless wait. We have heard that the Third World's claim is a (?Utopian) exercise. For those who think so, we ought to have them remember what a U.S. professor had to say about the current world and the order resulting after World War II. He said that of all (?Utopias), the most dangerous is that of the people who think that the world can continue as it is or as it was conceived 30 years ago. These thoughts lead us to assert that the crisis has very deep roots. We are going through a moral crisis, a crisis of ethical principles. On the one hand, we have sermons and (?consensus) and, on the other, actions. The Third World debt is over \$200 billion and the service of this debt is preventing many countries from carrying out the most modest programs for economic and social development. In the meantime, military spending and the arms race take up more than \$350 billion per year. This should be enough to reach the conclusion that along this path mankind is far from reaching a future of coexistence and justice.

The solidarity with the world policy you have outlined is based precisely on deep ethical principles. But allow me to say that the most brilliant statesmen, with the best of intentions, are constantly harassed by great economic interests and old dogmas about strategic power. Thus we see how rivalries and antagonisms have increased the efforts being made in such significant fields as the proliferation of nuclear and conventional weapons. To mention another example as significant as the previous one, let us see how the policy of the defense of human rights, to which you have given so much importance in international relations, is being attacked by the big transnational corporations, which are ready and quick to invest capital where human rights are denied. There is a strange interrelation between foreign investment and the violation of human rights. Although we are a developing country, as can be seen by our exports and our truly limited resources, despite our oil wealth, our feeling of solidarity and responsibility toward the international community led us to suggest to OPEC ministers, who met here in Venezuela, in Caraballeda in December 1977, a formula to solve, along with the cooperation of the industrialized countries, part of the serious situation faced by the countries most affected by the world crisis. Among other things, we wanted to call the attention of industrialized countries to their unquestionable obligation to solve this fundamental matter while, at the same time, showing OPEC's efforts set forth in its plans to cooperate in order to contribute to the solution of the real problems affecting the world's economic order. If developed countries do not face up to and solve the debt burdening the Third World, there is no possible solution to the crisis. Sweden and Canada have [words indistinct]. Economic and commercial relations between Latin America and the United States each day have become more important. Today, when your country is facing commercial and monetary problems which are causing anxiety not only among its citizens but also in the international community, once more we see the importance of ties with our region.

Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela are among those countries having the greatest trade with your country. Mexico, in order of importance to the United States, is in fifth place among the countries of the world. Venezuela is 7th and Brazil is 12th. But if we take Latin America as a whole, we can see that the trade deficit against which your administration is trying to establish corrective measures does not have its roots in the southern part of this hemisphere.

The United States has maintained favorable balances in its trade with Latin America. If to this we add the dividends of U.S. concerns and the interest we pay for the loans received from U.S. institutions, we can see that our countries have partly compensated for situations existing in other regions and which have caused you serious problems.

Our peoples help the United States, but we also expect from the United States not special treatment or a special relationship; we expect just treatment not as a reward for friendship but as an acquired right in our historic relations and because we have helped U.S. development with our raw materials.

Another great U.S. president was here before you. He was John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The Latin Americans began a dialog with him which could have been fruitful. Kennedy, like you, had the necessary awareness to understand what a well-founded friendship with Latin America means for the United States. Now you have the opportunity to come to our countries and to learn in the Southern Hemisphere about the situation existing among these peoples who await the hour of dignity, civilization and well being.

As I told you in Washington, our concept of human rights includes political rights as well as economic and social rights. Our peoples are making a great effort among ourselves. We seek integration. Latin American economic integration is the priority objective of our foreign policy. The countries of the region are seeking it by various means. However, we have heard responsible voices in the United States object to our efforts and accept it as positive only if it is not adverse to U.S. interests.

The Andean Pact, the Central American Common Market, the Caribbean Economic Community, the Latin American Free Trade Association and the Latin American Economic System are real attempts at interregional cooperation. None of them excludes extraregional cooperation. On the contrary, with clear concepts and precise objectives, it establishes greater possibilities for relationships with industrialized countries.

The (F.O.B.) countries must understand this effort, which must succeed. It is no different for the United States than the European Common Market and vice versa.

The relationship between the United States and Venezuela has passed through various stages. One of [word indistinct], others of friendship and another one which, fortunately, we are presiding over now. For more than 50 years Venezuela has been one of the most important suppliers of petroleum for the United States, during a time when its industry and technology developed. It is impossible to separate our country's political and economic process from this relationship. For more than half a century our fundamental wealth was exploited by large transnational concerns.

When we felt capable and made the decision of nationalizing our petroleum and iron industries, we did so within a juridical process and by means of reasonable compensations. This process, like others, has shown the world, and especially the large industrial countries, that Venezuela is a responsible country, that we do not fail in fulfilling our commitments.

We are also zealous defenders of our interests as a sovereign country, owner of its raw materials, without which it would be impossible to attain a contemporary level of civilization. The great advances of science and technology and the high standard of living of the great nations were acquired, if not at the expense of our resources, then as a benefit from them as well as from the historical situation of our people.

You have come to Latin America at a time when all our peoples are observing and evaluating the U.S. attitude as it debates and discusses the future of relations between the powerful North and the still developing South.

From Venezuela you will go to Brazil. I was in Brazil in 1977. It was a very special experience for me. My talks with President Ernesto Geisel, my contacts with the communication media, the economic sectors and the people of Brazil, and the warmth which they expressed during every hour and every day of my visit to that extraordinary country reaffirmed in me the ideals of unity and integration of our peoples as well as the great spirit of solidarity and the common ideals which we share.

In Latin America there are few regimes which emerged as a result of the will of the people as expressed by means of universal suffrage. Nevertheless, we are encouraged because several countries are in the process of constitutional rectification. The attitude of your government is surely and positively influencing and contributing to a great extent to these efforts aimed at improvement and democratic progress in Latin America.

This year, on 10 December, we shall celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Venezuelans are preparing to celebrate this occasion and to reassert our faith in the principles it proclaims.

Your visit to Venezuela, Mr President, in addition to resuming our dialog to identify viewpoints, coincidences and differences for the purposes of attaining the goal of common actions of a regional as well as a global character, has permitted us to sign some important agreements. We have signed the memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the effective struggle against drugs and drug trafficking and, most notably, the treaty signed this afternoon on the demarcation of the maritime border between Venezuela and the United States. It is the first treaty of this nature that our country has signed, and I give to it corresponding importance because it establishes the exact limits of our sovereignty.

These limits do not close but open the possibilities for cooperation in (the same spirit) which has guided our relations aimed at our common benefit. [words indistinct] We will sign similar treaties with the Netherlands Antilles, with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and will thereby demonstrate our desire for understanding and for the always broad possibility of finding appropriate and equitable formulas which guarantee friendship and harmony while preserving rights in the relations between nations which were placed one beside the other by geography and history.

Mr President Carter, Mrs Carter, today is a day of deep satisfaction for the Venezuelan people. It is a pleasure and an honor to have you here. As I said on 28 June 1977 during the cordial and friendly dinner held in honor of my wife, myself and my retinue at the White House, we identify ourselves with the United States concerning democracy and the desire that politics serve high ethical values and humane principles.

Let us Venezuelans now toast along with President and Mrs Carter the democratic future of the United States, the success of its human rights policy and the personal welfare of the Carter family.

U.S. GOVERNMENT URGED TO SUSPEND CUBA BLOCKADE

PA281620Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1531 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (LATIN)--Venezuelan politicians, intellectuals, priests and journalists, in an open letter to President Jimmy Carter today, urged the U.S. Government to suspend the blockade imposed on Cuba since 1962.

The list, headed by former President Wolfgang Larrazabal, includes four leftwing presidential candidates, and secretaries general of leftwing parties.

"The revision of relations between the United States and Latin America cannot occur without the suspension of the blockade which, in essence, combines the arrogance of neocolonialism with cold war aggression," states the document endorsed by the thousand signers.

Carter is arriving this afternoon in Venezuela for a 22-hour official visit during which he will meet with President Carlos Andres Perez and deliver a message before the National Congress.

GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS IMPORTS TO CUT COMPETITION

PA290351Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has prohibited the importation of vehicles of makes and models which are not manufactured in the country. According to the resolution published in the official gazette, the government has also prohibited the importation of refrigerators, washing machines, stoves, clothes dryers, dishwashers and other electrical appliances. The prohibition includes the importation of every type of furniture and any other articles or manufactured goods which compete with domestic industries.

EL DIA ON CARTER'S MOTIVES FOR VISITING VENEZUELA, BRAZIL

FL282326Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexico City's morning paper EL DIA today editorializes that North American President Jimmy Carter's objective during his visits to Venezuela and Brazil is to "to have what he considers the most appropriate setting for saying what he should say to the Latin Americans, things which we, on the other hand, already know."

"There will be statements on peace and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, given the differences with the Brazilians and their plans to develop their nuclear technology, but none of these statements will get to the bottom of things," states the paper. "It is apparent," it adds, "that this is due to North American foreign policy needs, and it is interesting to consider why Venezuela and Brazil were chosen."

EL DIA believes that "Venezuela is one of the few countries on the continent in which a democratic system exists and, along with this, there is the personal friendship between Carter and President Carlos Andres Perez, which was one of principal reasons considered in making the selection."

The morning paper states that these reasons are not the (?only ones) and that in spite of the sanctions which the North American foreign trade law imposes on Venezuelans because they are members of OPEC, both governments are putting the final touches on a government-to-government direct sale agreement of Venezuelan petroleum."

"From this angle," EL DIA continues, "Carter's visit has something of a message to the other countries with which the United States has not been able to reach agreements on energy resources."

"The visit to Brazil," concludes the daily, "represents an unmistakable component of North American foreign policy. There is a dictatorial government there, but it is a powerful country in the continental sense with all the understandings signed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger still in force. Therefore, it is a vital ally for a two-faced policy. This is also a message."

LOPEZ-PORTILLO REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SELA

FL281140Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo has reaffirmed his country's support for the Latin American Economic System [SELA]. The Mexican head of state made the statement during a meeting with visiting SELA Permanent Secretary Jaime Moncayo. We can no longer think that each Latin American country can solve all its problems by itself. It has become necessary that we undertake an intense campaign of Latin American cooperation, President Lopez-Portillo told the SELA official.

FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE REPORTS ON EXPORTS TO U.S.

FL282205Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--A study by the Mexican Institute of Foreign Trade published today stated that 65.7 percent of all Mexican foreign exports went to the United States, representing a total value of \$2,400,467,000.

The study also refers to statements made by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez that an unfair price is paid for raw materials from Latin America. The study states that sale prices for Mexican products are set at an international level and, therefore, it is not possible to speak about fair or unfair treatment.

OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN DIES FROM POLICE BEATING

PA282301Y Paris AFP in English 2258 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Ciudad Mante, Mexico, March 28 (AFP)--Mexican authorities said today that a spokesman of the opposition Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, Rafael Torres Plata, died in a Ciudad Mante jail last Sunday after a beating by two policemen.

He was the Ciudad Mante spokesman for the party and had been arrested following violent demonstrations set off by the assassination last Thursday of another leader of the party, Vicente Infante.

Police said the two policemen who had beaten Mr Torres had been arrested.

CRITICA SEES NEED FOR PLEBISCITE ON AMENDMENTS

PA281656Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Mar 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Foreign Ministry Communique"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday released a press communique which was widely disseminated by all the information media in the country. The Foreign Ministry began by recalling that on 16 March it had said that the "revolutionary government had decided not to make any pronouncement on the Senate's resolutions in relation to the treaties on the 'Permanent Neutrality of the Canal and the Operation of the Panama Canal.'"

As was clearly stated on that occasion, the revolutionary government decided to abstain for now from giving an opinion on the Senate decision. The reason was obvious: The Panamanian people by constitutional mandate in the 23 October plebiscite gave their approval, without reservations or amendments, to the two treaties that were signed on 7 October 1977 in Washington before the chiefs of state of the continent in the OAS Room of the Americas, the so-called Torrijos-Carter treaties which form, under their signature, a single legal entity.

However, the U.S. Senate recently began debating the canal treaty, which is the more important for Panama, without lessening the importance of the neutrality treaty. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry affirmed that the national liberation process is a national commitment, which is why it decided to publicize the Senate resolution so that all the changes made to the neutrality treaty may be studied by all the people in order to achieve the broadest patriotic consensus of national opinion before making a decision on a matter of such vital interest.

We want to be totally clear regarding the reservations, understandings and amendments to the treaty which have passed the great test before the U.S. Senate. In light of the constitutional provisions which authorized the plebiscite for approving or disapproving the Torrijos-Carter treaties, we consider that any addenda [aumentos] to those treaties made by the U.S. Senate will have to be submitted to a plebiscite in Panama.

Some of those amendments are acceptable, such as that agreed upon between President Carter and General Torrijos before the plebiscite was held. But there is one which, because it affects the sole responsibility of Panama in the canal's operation after the year 2000, cannot be accepted, primarily because it would permit U.S. armed intervention in the event of a canal stoppage, which is something that has happened more than once to its actual "owners."

We will try to study these amendments in order to pinpoint their lack of reasoning. Meanwhile, the revolutionary government can also prepare its reply, duly approved by the people, in case President Carter cannot manage to eliminate the humiliating and intolerable aspects of these amendments.

RADIO MIA FORECASTS NEW TREATY PLEBISCITE

PA281728Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry communique did not reveal the official position of the Panamanian Government. The ministry merely issued a document to enlighten the nation on the amendments, reservations and changes made by the U.S. senators.

We do not know, however, what the position of the Panamanian Government, of General Torrijos or of the foreign minister is. In fact, they have turned the problem over to us that we might express our opinion as Panamanians.

Mario Velasquez' statements, however, have made us wonder, because he would appear to imply, as far as I can see, that President Carter was able to obtain the ratification of the first treaty by modifying his position concerning his promise to General Torrijos and allowing the amendments to be included. If Carter had not negotiated with DeConcini and the others, the treaty would probably not have been ratified.

The above leads us to believe that the treaty has not been altogether satisfactory to the chief of government's original position. Yesterday, for example, we approached Dr Cesar Quintero while visiting the Finance Ministry and asked him about the matter. Quintero told us that the situation was one which demanded that every Panamanian express an opinion on the treaty and that he is considering initiating a serious analysis of the significance and effects of the amendments.

Taking all the above into consideration, we venture to advance the following journalistic predictions: first, that we will have to hold another plebiscite. Neither the government nor General Torrijos is going to assume sole responsibility for accepting a treaty with amendments which constitute changes.

Amendment means correction. Reservation, as far as we have been able to determine, means that the U.S. Government includes some considerations to the treaty which are attached to it and, once it is delivered to Panama with said reservations, if Panama fails to respond to them within a specific period of time as established by international law, then the reservations become part of the treaty, tacitly accepted through Panama's silence.

Consequently, we believe the government is again considering passing on the responsibility to the people. We do not believe that General Torrijos is considering accepting the treaty, as many claim. Thus, it is quite probable that we will have to hold another plebiscite on the ratified documents. We have come to this conclusion in view of the official silence, since nobody knows what the position of the government in this respect is.

Second, after the statements made last night by Mario Velasquez, who has all along been close to General Torrijos and who has usually followed the line of the government, we have concluded that the treaty was ratified because Carter failed to fulfill his promise to General Torrijos, and we believe that in view of this failure, the chief of government will not accept full responsibility.

And third, we believe that a meeting of General Torrijos with President Carter in Venezuela, with Carlos Andres Perez as mediator, is imminent. This meeting could be official or unofficial. As you know, our chief of government could get in his plane here, take off, and suddenly appear in Venezuela, even without the knowledge of President Perez. However, they will meet and talk, for such is the modern diplomacy introduced by General Torrijos, which has been criticized by some sectors because it dispenses with diplomatic coordination. Nevertheless, whether good or bad, such is the way General Torrijos has handled things in the country, and in doing so he has placed the problem of Panama on an international level.

We repeat, the three scoops we have for you today, the products of our journalistic deductions, are: first, that the government is not pleased with the ratified treaty; second, it is being implied, according to my understanding, that President Carter had to yield ground in his promise to General Torrijos, which will be sufficient reason for the treaties to be subjected to a new plebiscite; and third, a meeting between President Carter and General Torrijos during Carter's visit to Venezuela--or perhaps before--is imminent. Such are our scoops for today.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON TREATY CHANGES PRAISED

PA281628Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Mar 78 p 4 PA

[The "Los Hombres y Los Hechos" column]

[Excerpts] The communique issued recently by the Foreign Ministry under Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla's leadership revealing the amendments and reservations attached to the neutrality treaty by the Senate is very timely and patriotic. This has helped to determine the national consensus sought by the government.

It has been disclosed that one of the main points in the agenda Carlos Andres Perez has set up for President Carter's visit to Caracas is a review of the situation regarding the Panama Canal treaties. This is most important because it is another sign of Latin American solidarity with our country.

MATUTINO URGES RESISTENCE TO TREATY CHANGES

PA281853Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Mar 78 p 4-A PA

[From the "Bitacora de la Redaccion" column]

[Text] The amendments and reservations attached to the neutrality treaty and those which may be attached to the Panama Canal treaty will be discussed within the context of an extensive national consensus. The decision taken in this respect places in the hands of the people, of all Panamanians, the historic responsibility that must be borne. The measure is a wise one and in line with the October revolution's philosophy of dialog and consultation.

Let those who have denied us the patriotic right to end the causes of conflict stemming from the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty examine carefully the pronouncements to be made from now on.

It is our belief that our country has honestly lived up to its part in the negotiations which resulted in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

And our leaders, like the people who ratified those legal instruments in a democratic plebiscite, recognized the many failings of the treaties and stated for the historical record that we remained "under the umbrella of the Pentagon."

But from that to having to accept the whims and power struggle of a group of senators who seek to wound Panamanians and their leaders with insults and humiliate us with amendments and reservations without name is something else.

Panama and its leaders cannot be called intransigent. But we should be intransigent in face of a situation which does not settle the causes of conflict but which, on the contrary, multiplies them in an offensive way.

In the meantime, it is up to the citizens to form an opinion, to evaluate the documents and measure the consequences and sacrifices and decide if we must continue struggling for the irreversibility of the process of decolonizing our fatherland.

At this time the Panamanian chief of government, Gen Omar Torrijos, should be aware that he has never been alone and will never be alone in this struggle which he has led honestly.

BELIZE

PRICE REPORTS ON TALKS WITH VANCE, PEREZ

FL290206Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Premier Price and U.S. Secretary of State Mr Cyrus Vance met in Washington last Friday. Their meeting followed a visit to Venezuela, where the premier also held talks with President Carlos Andres Perez. The premier returned to Belize on Easter Sunday.

After his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Vance, the premier said he understood that the position of the United States of America is not to advocate any one settlement of the Belize problem but to try to watch (?how) best to maintain peace and [word indistinct] in the area.

The talks with President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas, Venezuela, were similar to those held with U.S. Secretary of State Vance. The premier outlined further his government's endeavors to achieve a peaceful settlement to Guatemala's claim to Belize by insuring that the independence of Belize would be safe and secure and there would be no cession of territory. The premier informed both President Carlos Andres Perez and U.S. Secretary of State Vance of the efforts of the Belizean Government to attain a multilateral security arrangement which would be capable of guaranteeing a safe and secure independent Belize.

From his office in Belmopan the premier said today that a negotiated settlement of the Belize problem is always preferable, provided that the sovereignty and territory of Belize are not negotiable. Failing such a settlement, declared the premier, there should be [words indistinct] a multilateral security arrangement which would include the British, the Caribbean and other American countries to insure a peaceful existence of a secured, independent Belize.

COSTA RICA

ODUBER, TORRIJOS CONFER ON CANAL TREATIES

PA281305Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0127 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Oduber has met again with Torrijos. President Daniel Oduber confirmed this afternoon that he had spent the Easter holidays in Panama. He said that he met for 2 days with Panamanian strongman Gen Omar Torrijos.

When asked about the topics discussed, he said: Omar and I were busy again hearing a report on the canal treaties and especially the favorable Senate reaction to the first treaty. Both of us feel that great achievements have been made to date, President Oduber said laconically.

He left the country on Holy Thursday and returned on Saturday afternoon.

ODUBER CONCERNED OVER RESTRICTIVE U.S. TRADE BILLS

PA282019Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] President Daniel Oduber this morning expressed concern over restrictive bills pending approval by the U.S. Senate which will affect Costa Rica's trade and exports, mainly meat.

We are always concerned about any policy that might seriously affect not only meat, but also sugar and other Costa Rican industrial products, President Oduber said. We are confident, however, that we shall overcome this situation once our views are put forward to prevent trade discrimination against Costa Rica. President Oduber made the statement following an inspection tour of the initial stages of the San Jose-Cartago highway project.

EL SALVADOR

44 PEASANT LEADERS INDICTED BY COURTS

PA290350Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1930 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (LATIN)--The Defense Ministry announced today that 44 members of three peasant organizations, one of them illegal, were indicted today on charges of causing incidents which resulted in the death of 11 persons and injuries to many others. The organizations in question are the Popular Revolutionary Bloc, the Salvadoran Christian Federation of Peasants, and the Farm Workers Union, according to a Defense Ministry communique.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS MLN PLANNING COUP ATTEMPT

PA282244Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz warned today that anticommunist Cubans have joined with the National Liberation Movement (MLN) to overthrow President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud. Alvarez Ruiz revealed that the government will not tolerate any subversive activities, much less by foreigners, and that Cubans caught in coup attempts will be expelled from Guatemala.

The interior minister noted that the anticommunist MLN, which lost the 5 March presidential elections, has not accepted the election results and is now seeking to violate constitutional order in order to install its candidate, Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, in power. Alvarez Ruiz indicated that government security forces found an arsenal on a plantation in Chiquimula Province which was part of an anticommunist conspiracy against the regime.

The minister charged that there was clear evidence of support on the part of some Cuban businessmen for the MLN presidential candidate. He was referring to Colonel Peralta Azurdia, the 70-year-old former chief of government who is married to a Cuban and who has been living in exile in Miami since 1966.

"The will of the Guatemalans, as expressed at the polls, will be respected, and on 1 July the presidency will be handed over to President-elect Gen Romeo Lucas," Alvarez Ruiz said.

He added that the Guatemalan Army is firmly united, is faithful to President Laugerud Garcia and has rejected constant petitions from the MLN to "intervene" in the present political crisis, which has been characterized by mutual charges of fraud being made by the parties which participated in the electoral contest. Alvarez Ruiz said that many armed men who were brought to the capital by the MLN to express discontent in the streets have been arrested and disarmed in Guatemala City.

HONDURAS

PALMA COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH EL SALVADOR, OTHER TOPICS

PA282009Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Col Roberto Palma yesterday denied knowledge of a reported summit meeting between government leaders of Honduras and El Salvador this week. He was approached by newsmen at the end of his weekly meeting with the chief of state and said that General Melgar Castro had said nothing about the meeting during their conversation.

It was said in El Salvador this weekend that they would meet at the border at the end of this week or the first week of April.

On peace negotiations with El Salvador, the Honduran foreign minister said the Honduran delegation which will attend the swearing in of the mediator, Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, will leave for Lima on Friday. Other members of the delegation aside from the foreign minister are Cesar A. Batres, coordinator of the negotiating commission with El Salvador; Andres Alvarado Puerto, Ramon Balladares and Lt Col Cesar Elvir Sierra. The present Honduran ambassador to Canada, Lawyer Max Velasquez Diaz, who was written several publications on the conflict, will also go. Bustamante y Rivero will be sworn in next Monday, probably at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in the presence of the Honduran and Salvadoran foreign ministers.

Regarding the future of the six Sandinists arrested by the Honduran Army on the border with Nicaragua, the foreign minister disclosed that he still had not received a reply from the governments which were asked to grant them asylum. He added that if he did not receive an answer tomorrow or Thursday, he would decide upon another proper solution. He noted that no solution would contemplate delivering the guerrillas to the security forces of dictator Anastasio Somoza.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA ANNOUNCES LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE FOR 1981

PA290304Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (AFP)--Gen Anastasio Somoza today appointed Eduardo Montealegre, top executive of the country's financial organization, as his party's candidate for the presidential succession in 1981. The newspaper 24 HORAS said today that Somoza chose Montealegre as the candidate for the Liberal Party, which has ruled Nicaragua for more than 40 years.

Meanwhile, industrialist Alfonso Robelo announced the establishment of a new opposition party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, for which he will be the presidential candidate in 1981.

SENATE REJECTS MOTION ON CHAMORRO KILLING

PA209356Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Senator Humberto Chamorro today submitted a motion to the Senate asking for the appointment of a senatorial committee in charge of investigating Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassination.

As expected, the motion was rejected by a majority composed of Nationalist Liberal Party congressmen who do not even wish to discuss the problem. Senator Ramiro Granera Padilla told Senator Chamorro that a similar motion had been submitted to the Senate before but that it had been rejected because it was not a matter which concerned the Senate and, therefore, the same motion could not be submitted twice during the same legislative period. Senator Chamorro withdrew the motion, indicating that he was not present when the motion was submitted to the Senate before.

NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS REPORTED

PA282152Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Armando J. Fernandez has been appointed the new Nicaraguan National Guard Chief of staff. He replaces Gen Guillermo Noguera, who was recently named defense minister.

Managua's NOVEDADES also reports today on other National Guard appointments. Col Aurelio Somarriba is the new GN-1 (army chief of personnel). He replaces the late Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega, who was murdered on 8 March by Sandinist guerrillas.

Another appointment reported today is that of Gen Jose Ivan Alegrett as National Guard chief of operations. Alegrett is the same officer who was involved in a diplomatic incident between Nicaragua and Mexico last year when he tried to remove a person from the Mexican Embassy who had sought asylum there.

SOMOZA PORTOCARRERO SAID ORGANIZING 'PRIVATE ARMY'

PA290353Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Fernando Aguerro Rocha, a former opposition leader, today denounced at a news conference that Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, the son of President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, is organizing his own private army. According to Aguerro Rocha, he told U.S. Government officials with whom he met during his recent visit to Washington about it. Aguerro Rocha said that Somoza Portocarrero's private army is composed of some 800 men who are receiving training at his Morrillo farm located on the other side of Lake Nicaragua.

KIDNAPED U.S. CITIZEN RELEASED AFTER RANSOM PAID

PA282042Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpts] Marjine Paine de Deshon, a U.S. citizen who was kidnaped 2 days ago in Chinandega, was released early this morning. The ransom finally paid was not released. The kidnapers were said to be common criminals.

DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED IN MASAYA 27 MARCH

PA290346Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Mar (AFP)--New antigovernment demonstrations were staged in Masaya late yesterday. The demonstrations seem to mark the reappearance of a popular movement against President Anastasio Somoza in that city. According to reports received in the capital, last night a crowd of about 1,000 persons marched through the streets of Monimbo, the Indian community located in downtown Masaya, 30 km east of Managua. It was reported that another popular march was staged in the Santa Rosa community, also in Masaya. There were no reports of injuries.

ANNIVERSARY OF ANGOLAN VICTORY CELEBRATED

FL281120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The second anniversary of the victory of the People's Republic of Angola over the South African aggressors was commemorated last night with an event at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers which was chaired by PCC Politburo member Ramiro Valdes, Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero and other members of the PCC Central Committee.

The main speaker was Division Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and member of the PCC Central Committee, who recalled the extraordinary offensive conducted by the Angolans to expel the South African regular troops from their territory. On behalf of the FAR and all working people, Abelardo Colome greeted the Angolan people, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, the MPLA Central Committee and its brilliant leader Agostinho Neto.

Colome Ibarra Remarks

FL281620Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1527 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpt] In his speech Division Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra pointed out the importance of the anniversary in the history of the Angolan people. He stated that when the racist and counterrevolutionary forces invaded Angola, its people were not refused aid by the USSR, Cuba and other countries of the socialist camp.

Division General Colome Ibarra stressed that the Cuban and Angolan peoples are fraternally united by blood shed in the struggle against imperialism. He compared that country's victory with the one at Giron and stated that, like Angola's, it was a decisive victory for our cause. The People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola fought courageously and sealed the victory of the Angolan revolution with heroism, the PCC Central Committee member and vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces stressed.

He recalled that this anniversary coincides with the first anniversary of Fidel's visit to Angola and added that the histories of the MPLA and the PCC are as united as Fidel Castro and Agostinho Neto.

Division General Colome Ibarra also pointed out that Cuba's aid to and cooperation with Angola will never be a topic in negotiations with imperialism. Cuban troops will remain in Angola as long as Neto and Fidel deem it necessary, he emphasized.

Colome Ibarra enumerated the principal gains made by the Angolan revolution, among them the registration of more than half a million persons in education and state control of main production means.

In closing he recalled the Cuban and Angolan combatants who have fallen in the struggle against racism and imperialism and stated that the Angolan revolution is moving forward and being consolidated.

THIRD GROUP OF TEACHERS DEPARTS FOR ANGOLA

FL281130Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The third group of students of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment has departed for the sisterly People's Republic of Angola where they will lend their services as teachers in the Angolan provinces of Cabinda, Huila and Malange. The students were seen off at Jose Marti International Airport by Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of education, and other officials of that ministry.

In coming days other groups of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment will be leaving for Angola until their number reaches the point to which our country is committed. These students will lend their teaching services wherever they are needed in the People's Republic of Angola.

JOINT STATEMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAQ

For an INA report on the joint statement issued after Foreign Minister Isodoro Malmierca's visit to Iraq, see the Iraq section of the 29 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

MPLA POLITBURO MEMBER TOURS CAMAGUEY SCHOOL

FL282203Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2038 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Comdr Henrique Santos, alternate member of the Angolan MPLA-Labor Party Politburo, today arrived in Camaguey Province where he visited the headquarters of the Candido Gonzalez Railroad Polytechnical Institute, where 46 Angolan technicians are studying. Accompanying the Angolan leader were PCC Central Committee members Raul Curbelo Morales, province party first secretary, and Luis Alfonso Zayas Ochoa.

At a press conference, Comdr Henrique Santos stated that the Angolan Revolution is advancing, developing and consolidating down the same path of socialism as is Cuba. The MPLA-Labor Party Politburo member stated that today is a glorious date for Angolan and Cuban combatants because it marks 2 years since the expulsion of the South African racists from Angola.

Pedro Pascual Domingo Rodriguez, who is studying electromechanics, stated in the name of the Angolan students the happiness of being trained as technicians in Cuba and that they will struggle even more to achieve high academic grades.

Comdr Henrique Santos was extensively brief by Jose Pinmentel Barreras, director of the Candido Gonzalez Railroad Polytechnical Institute, on the characteristics of this center which trains mid-level specialists.

On the tour of the Camaguey Province center with the Angolan leaders were Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, Camaguey Province party second secretary, and Col Luis Felipe Denis, Interior Ministry provincial delegate.

This morning the Angolan leader visited the industrial city of Nuevitas, where he was received by Rigoberto Fernandez Leon, member of the Camaguey party bureau.

GRANMA ALLEGES U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

PA290359Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In the trial of the young U.S. black John Harris, U.S. Justice has again made evident its deeply entrenched racism as it always does when the defendant struggles for social equality, according to the Cuban newspaper GRANMA. It added that when this occurs, U.S. justice contrives incredible charges against the defendant, especially if he is black, as has occurred in many occasions. John Harris' case is not an isolated incident in the United States.

After emphasizing that Harris' only crime is having joined the political struggle of millions of U.S. citizens oppressed by the injustice which prevails in that country, GRANMA referred to the various maneuvers by which U.S. authorities accused the young black of having murdered a policeman and then condemned him to death. In this fashion, the paper said, the U.S. Government attempts to intimidate and silence the participants in the civil rights movement in the United States. It is not possible for the U.S. Government to promote the defense of human rights in other countries when it does not respect these rights itself, as evidenced by the case of John Harris and many others fighting for social equality in the United States, GRANMA said.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES CYPRIOT SOCIALIST LEADER

FL281210Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Council of Ministers, has received Vassos Lyssarides, chairman of the Cypriot socialist party. The Cypriot leader, who is visiting our country at the invitation of PCC Central Committee, was accompanied by his wife. PCC Central Committee member Lionel Soto and Silvia Nereida Perez, an official of the PCC Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department, also participated in the meeting. During the talks, which were held in a very cordial atmosphere, the two sides discussed matters of party interest and examined salient aspects of the international scene.

Lyssarides Visits MPSP Headquarters

FL290043Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Cypriot socialist party chairman Vassos Lyssarides this afternoon visited the headquarters in Havana city of the Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP]. The Cypriot leader, who is here in response to an invitation of the PCC Central Committee, was accompanied by his wife. He was received by Elena Gil, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the MPSP, coordinator (Francisco Astray) and the other members of the Secretariat.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES

FL281219Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Constantin Oancea has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. During his stay in Cuba the Romanian deputy foreign minister will hold talks with Comrade Rene Anillo, minister of foreign relations ad interim, and other leaders of the Foreign Ministry and Cuban agencies. He will also visit places of interest.

AGREEMENTS ON METEOROLOGY. POWER SIGNED WITH USSR

Tropical Meteorology Pact

FL281135Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Soviet Meteorology Institute and the Cuban Academy of Sciences have reached agreement on a biannual cooperation plan in the branch of tropical meteorology. The agreement, which was signed by Dr (Yuriy Sedurov) for the Soviet Union and engineer Tiros Saenz, provides for the development of a joint laboratory for studying tropical meteorology and hurricanes as well as for conducting experiments and research work to deepen knowledge in that branch.

Electrical Power Protocol

FL282048Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] A scientific and technical cooperation protocol for 1978 between Cuba and the USSR was signed within the last few hours. Engineer Jorge Luis (Coteron), director of international relations of the Cuban Electrical Industry Ministry, and (A. Shivshikov), engineer-chief of foreign relations of the USSR Power and Electrification Ministry, signed the document. The protocol establishes the future plans for developing Cuban electrical power.

Both signers concurred that the agreement strengthens even more the indestructible ties of friendship between Cuba and the USSR. Present at the signing were (Rolando Fuentes), first vice minister of the electrical industry; (L. Petrosian), engineer-director of (ENERGOSETPROYECT) of Leningrad, and other Cuban and Soviet officials associated with the electrical power industry.

CARIBBEAN-CUBAN ONCOLOGY CONGRESS ENDS

FL281918Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The fifth Cuban and the first Caribbean Basin Congress on Oncology ended today at the Habana Libre Hotel Ambassadors Hall following 5 days of sessions. Dr Daniel Alonso, vice chairman of the Health Ministry [MINSAP] Scientific Council, made the closing remarks at the important event which was attended by 600 delegates and guests from America, Europe and Asia. Alonso pointed out the high scientific level of the conferences and reports presented at the meeting.

The agreement approved by the fifth Cuban and the first Caribbean Basin Congress on Oncology include approval of technological therapeutic models, MTT, [as heard], the system employed by the Oncology and Radiology Institute of Havana and presented to the meeting by the Cuban delegation. The MINSAP Scientific Council director also stated that the objective of promoting a community of interests in their efforts in fighting cancer was essentially achieved because of the interest shown by the specialists and scientists attending the event.

BRIEFS

VIETNAMESE ORDER FOR CDR--The Order of Friendship was presented to Cuba's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] in a ceremony held in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam. The decoration, which was conferred by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, was accepted by Mario Ferrer, member of the CDR National Committee, who heads the delegation of that mass organization. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1929 GMT 23 Mar 78 FL]

BARBADOS

NATIONAL BANK TAKES OVER BANK OF AMERICA OPERATIONS

FL271745Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Mar 78 p 1 FL

[Text] The Barbados National Bank Limited, a newly-established government banking agency, yesterday formally took over the operations of the Bank of America at Trident House, Broad Street. The projected official opening date for the main office of the bank in the National Insurance Building, Fairchild Street, is April 3. An agency of the bank will also be in operation at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Bank of America, while ceasing to conduct banking business here, will continue its association with this island by means of a direct correspondent relationship with the Barbados National Bank Limited through its Caribbean regional office located in Caracas, Venezuela. Under the terms of the sale agreement which also became effective yesterday, the Barbados National Bank Limited assumed control of, and responsibility for, existing deposits, certain designated loans and accounts and banking relations between the Barbados branch of Bank of America and its then customers.

An official of the Barbados National Bank has indicated that the majority of the Bank of America local staff have offered their services to the new bank. The management of the Barbados National Bank has assured clients that the business of the new bank will be conducted in accordance with normal banking practice, respecting the confidentiality of the banking profession and striving at all times to ensure prompt and courteous service.

JAMAICA

CUBAN GIFT OF 22 USSR-BUILT TRACTORS REPORTED

FL231525Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Mar 78 p 6 FL

[Text] Twenty-two tractors, made in Russia, a gift from the Cuban Government for use in Jamaica's agriculture and land reform programmes, were formally handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture by the Cuban ambassador to Jamaica, Senor Ramon Pez-Ferro, at the Ministry of Agriculture, Hope, on Tuesday.

The 60-horse-power Beleros tractors were received by the parliamentary secretary in the ministry, Mr. Jim Thompson. He expressed government's appreciation and said that the tractors would be engaged in doing light agricultural work only--pulling trailers, etc. But Cuban engineers are expected in the island shortly to demonstrate the capability of the tractors to undertake heavier agricultural work such as ploughing and harrowing and to train personnel in their operation and maintenance.

Two of the tractors have been assigned to the 1,923-acre Barham sugar co-operative farm on the Frome sugar estate, Westmoreland, and one each at the Jamaica School of Agriculture, the 48-acre Karachi urban farm in Mona, St. Andrew, and the 2,155-acre Cheltewood integrated agricultural development project. Also associated with the handing over of the tractors was Miss Portia Simpson, parliamentary secretary in the prime minister's office, in charge of the urban farm unit.

The tractors, which were promised by Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro on his state visit here last year, arrived in Jamaica in January. Operational instructions are printed in Russian and Spanish, and one directive, regarding the batteries, in Russian, Spanish and English.

SIGNING OF GUYANA-USSR FISHERIES ACCORD REPORTED

FL231616Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Guyana and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol outlining the areas proposed for cooperation between them in fisheries. The protocol was signed in Georgetown at the end of the first meeting of a Guyana-Soviet mixed commission on fisheries. The meeting followed the conclusion late last year of a general cooperation agreement between both countries. The head of the Guyana delegation at the signing described the protocol as the end of a very necessary step on the road to cooperation between the two countries. He added, however, that members of the two teams should not be satisfied until they can see the cooperation placed under more tangible forms.

GOVERNMENT DENIES REQUESTING RESCHEDULING OF DEBTS

FL271750Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Mar 78 p 10 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 22 Mar (CANA)--The Guyana Government has formally denied opposition charges that it had requested rescheduling of the country's external debt.

The denial came from Finance Minister Frank Hope in Parliament as he piloted a motion upping from G\$200 million to G\$500 million the limit of loans for which the administration can provide guarantees on behalf of state corporations and companies.

The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), through Secretary of Labour Boysie Ramkarran, had alleged that the government had sought rescheduling of loans to the electricity corporation "and no doubt others as well."

But Mr. Hope said that in all public forums where such matters as debts and aid were discussed, Guyana's position was that it would not involve itself in any policy of debt rescheduling.

Mr. Hope explained that the lifting of the G\$200 million ceiling was necessitated by the fact that the corporations were expecting to invest a "substantial" amount during the next four years, for which the administration has projected capital spending amounting to G\$1,282 million.

The corporations would no doubt borrow some of this from abroad, but they are required by law to have a government guarantee to do so, he explained.

Mr. Ramkarran, the number two man in the PPP, declared that it is in fact the "bankruptcy" of the government which led to the need to increase the borrowing limit.

The government, he agreed, should have converted the money which it got by jettisoning subsidies into cash for the corporations, and he asked further for an accounting of what happened to the money previously borrowed by the corporations.

But in reply Mr. Hope denied that Guyana was bankrupt, arguing that if this was so, then the country could not now borrow.

On aid from socialist states, he said Guyana had received two soft loans totalling G\$70 million from China, and no Western [state] had matched such assistance. There had been "accommodations" from such countries as Yugoslavia and the German Democratic Republic, he added.

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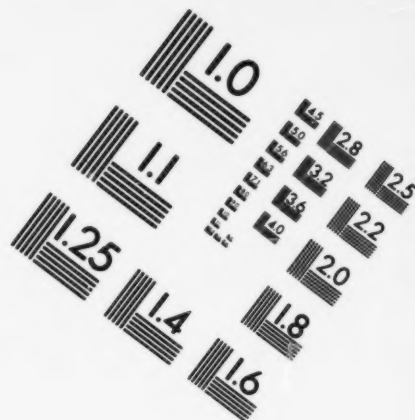
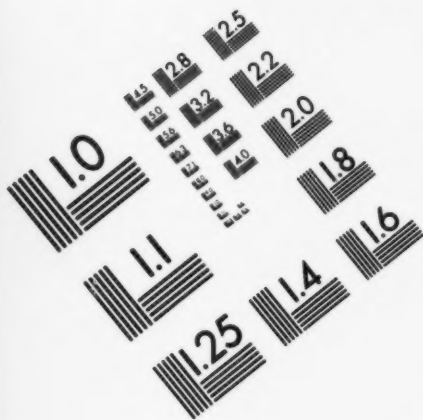
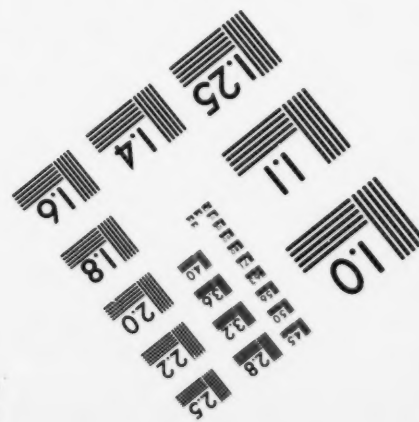
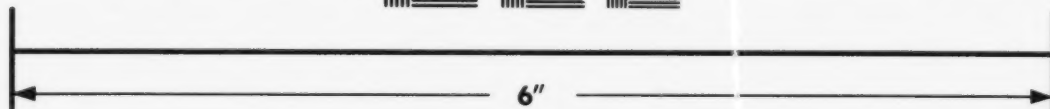
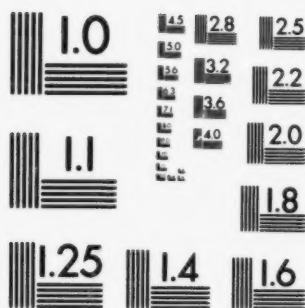


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